

not have this software, and requires the server to assist the client by executing intermediary software to communicate with the server application. The server determines whether the calling device is a network terminal or a non-network terminal, and communicates accordingly.

First, Cowan does not teach “receiving selection of a service identifier from a set of service identifiers.” Cowan teaches a technique for communicating between a client and server. Col. 5 lines 20-30 teaches recognizing whether the calling device is a network terminal or a non-network terminal. Col. 6 line 20 et seq. merely teaches that server application responds to client requests through sockets. Col. 7 line 3 et seq. teaches socket communication with a non-network terminal. Col. 8 line 19 et seq. further teaches socket communication with non-network terminal. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Cowan does not teach this step.

Second, Cowan does not teach “receiving downloadable code corresponding to the selected service identifier.” Cowan determines whether the calling device is a network terminal or a non-network terminal, and accordingly initiates the software either on the network terminal or on the server. Cowan does not teach downloading the software onto the non-network terminal (which may not even be able to execute the software). The terminal either executes the software or the server acts on its behalf. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Cowan does not teach this step.

Third, Cowan does not teach “using the Downloadable code to identify and initiate a network communications path from the browser to a service corresponding to the selected service identifier.” Again, Cowan teaches determining whether the calling device is a network or non-network terminal, and accordingly runs the appropriate software to communicate between the client and the server application. The Cowan server application is located on the server. Col. 10 line 12 et seq. teaches communication using host threads or servlets. Col. 9 line 22 et seq. teaches client threads. No network communications path need be identified. No network communications path need be initiated. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Cowan does not teach this step.

Fourth, Cowan does not teach “using the Downloadable code to interface with the service.” Cowan teaches determining whether the calling device is a network terminal or a non-network terminal, and accordingly communicating with the calling device. If the calling device is a network terminal, the server communicates with it directly. If the calling device is a non-network terminal, the server executes intermediary software to communicate with the calling device. The use of servlets and proxies is being taught to communicate with a known server application. Cowan does not teach using downloaded interface software to communicate with a service that may be located anywhere in the network. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Cowan does not teach this step.

Lastly, Cowan is non-analogous art that relates to techniques for communicating between a server application and a client terminal. The claimed invention relates to enabling the connection between a client and a service that may be located anywhere on a network. In accordance with the teachings of the present invention, the client need not know the location of the service, because the location of the service is maintained on the server. Further, the client need not obtain the proper interface for the service beforehand, because the interface to the service is also maintained on the server. Cowan and the present invention are not analogous.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is non-obvious over Cowan. For at least the above reasons, Applicant submits that claims 2-30 and 38-50 are also non-obvious over Cowan. Applicant therefore requests that the rejection under 35 USC § 103 over Cowan be withdrawn.

If the Examiner has any questions or needs any additional information, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (650) 843-3392.

If for any reason an insufficient fee has been paid, the Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the insufficiency to Deposit Account No. 05-0150.

Respectfully Submitted,
Riggins et al.

Dated: 8-11-99

Graham & James LLP
600 Hansen Way
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1043
650-856-6500



Marc A. Sockol
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 40,823